GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:655
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009
PRODUCTION AND COST OF NEWSPRINT
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of newsprint has risen in the last one year;

(b) if so,whether the Government proposes to increase the production of the newsprint;

(c) if so,the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware that the publication of Small Scale newspapers are on the verge of closure due to high price of newsprint; and

(e) if so,the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the small newspapers?

Answer

MINIATER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) & (c) Majority of Paper Mills manufacturing Paper, Paperboard and Newsprint are in private sector. Expansion-cum-diversification project to augment the capacity of Government run M/s. Hindustan Newsprint Limited - a subsidiary of M/s.Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, with swing facility to produce Newsprint or Writing Paper depending upon the remunerative sales realization and demand is under implementation.

(d) & (e) Representations against price rise and hardship being faced by the print media have been received.The Government has waived Customs Duty on import of newsprint to help the print media industry.Due to increase in newsprint price the Government enhanced the DAVP advertisement rates by 24% w.e.f.1.09.2008.Further as per the Advertisement Policy effective from 2.10.2007, 15% of total display advertisements goes to Small Scale Newspapers.